Bitdefender®

CASE STUDY

DFH GROUP Builds Out Solid Cybersecurity Strategy

Germany's largest maker of prefab homes slashes time spent on security administration and enhances incident response and user experience

DFH HAUS GMBH

Building 3,200 prefabricated houses annually on average, DFH GROUP encompasses the massa haus, allkauf haus, and OKAL brands, as well as the service company DFH Haus GmbH. DFH GROUP is known for innovative architectural designs, sustainable and high-quality homes, and state-of-the-art production techniques.

The Challenge

In cybersecurity, complex administration does not necessarily go hand in hand with advanced capabilities. In fact, the security team at Deutsche Fertighaus Gruppe (DFH GROUP), the largest manufacturer of prefabricated homes in Germany, discovered that complexity of its prior, aging security solution was draining technology staff resources while making it more difficult to keep workstations and servers safe.

DFH GROUP researched and tested several alternative cybersecurity solutions and ultimately chose Bitdefender GravityZone Business Security Premium for its streamlined administration and outstanding security protection.

Johannes Hammen, Information Security Officer, DFH GROUP, recalls, "When we ran proof-of-concept tests, Bitdefender GravityZone stood out as being easy to implement and operate. Plus, the Bitdefender presales team provided us with excellent, responsive support during the entire process. We also liked that GravityZone was built with a modern architecture offering multiple layers of protection."

The Solution

DFH GROUP uses GravityZone Business Security Premium to protect more than 1,000 Linux and Microsoft Windows workstations and servers with ransomware prevention and mitigation, attack forensics, and network attack defense. GravityZone's multiple defense layers continuously monitor the network to uncover suspicious activity and provide sophisticated tools to defend against cyberattacks.

GravityZone-protected endpoints run various application environments, such as Autodesk AutoCAD, Citrix XenApp, Citrix XenDesktop, easyinvoice, Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SQL Server, and VMware vSphere.

The Results

The transition to Bitdefender GravityZone has gone smoothly for the IT and information security teams, as well as users at DFH GROUP.

"As an information security officer, the biggest value of Bitdefender is that we've gained more sophisticated security protection while improving ease of use for our technical teams and providing a better user experience," states Hammen. "Our users have barely noticed a change and there is much less demand on our service desk and L1 and L2 support teams."

Previously, application and policy updates sometimes required users to restart their systems. Further, technical teams would need to test and resolve inadvertent blocking of applications that occurred after updates.

Hammen notes, "GravityZone runs in the background and updates the landscape automatically without impacting users and applications. We've configured the software, so users only see the most important alerts and are not annoyed with constant pop-ups. We estimate we spend 40 percent less time on security administration and security-related trouble inquiries have decreased by 90 percent. This gives us more time to perform deeper incident response and continue to optimize our environment."

"Because the Bitdefender architecture is so modern and agile, GravityZone scales well and can run on premises or in the cloud," Hammen continues. "The modular design makes it easier to add other Bitdefender solutions that we're considering, such as Exchange protection and XDR sensors."

Security monitoring has become more streamlined, according to Hammen: "With the GravityZone dashboard, we easily review and filter activity to see what needs to be tackled immediately. Viewing and analyzing the full path of an incident helps us reorganize and improve our internal processes for future incident response."

"Compliance with regulatory requirements such as GDPR and contractual obligations with our partners takes less time because we can easily view the update status of our endpoints and address any inconsistencies," Hammen adds.

DFH GROUP values Bitdefender's commitment to innovation and the customer relationship, notes Hammen: "The pace of innovation has been outstanding at Bitdefender. We have even seen some of our ideas about software improvements implemented within a few weeks. With other vendors, we fill out surveys and it often feels like our feedback is ignored and nothing ever changes."

"We're certainly not Bitdefender's largest customer but they make us feel like an important one," notes Hammen. "We have had many contacts with senior management, solution architects, and even developers. Bitdefender has made it clear they are committed to our success."